

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-53 were originally presented for consideration in this application. Claims 10, 11 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 12-46 and 48-53 are currently pending in this application.

The following rejections were set forth in the Office Action:

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 29, 30, 37-41, 44, 46, 49 52 and 53 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,843,490 to Raidel et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,893,733 to Obeshaw.

Regarding the obviousness rejections, please note that independent claims 1 and 29 have been amended above to make it clear that the beam body has a generally I-shaped cross-section (as recited in claim 1) or that a generally vertical web extends between the flanges (as recited in claim 29). Neither of the Raidel and Obeshaw references describe these features of the invention, and so a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made out for these claims and their dependents.

Instead, Raidel discloses a metal control arm that includes a pivot bushing clamp assembly to facilitate retention and replacement of a hyperelastic pivot bushing. According to Raidel, the control arm can have various cross-sectional shapes, such as a closed cross-section (e.g., circular or boxed), or an open cross-section such as a U-shape (col. 3, l. 19). Raidel does not teach or suggest that the suspension beam could have a generally I-shaped cross section or that it could be made of a composite material.

Obeshaw discloses various composite constructions that may be suitable as a part or component in a vehicle. Obeshaw also discloses that at least one structural

component, such as a bracket, coupler, cap, or the like, could be incorporated into a structure to make various vehicular parts (col. 8, ll. 13-36). However, Obeshaw also discloses that, "Primarily, the structural member can be used whenever a lightweight, strong, cylindrical object is required" (col. 18, l. 7). Obeshaw does not teach or suggest how to fabricate a reliable suspension control arm using a generally I-shaped composite material.

Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made out, and a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have found it obvious to make the invention recited in the claims based on the teachings of the Raidel and Obeshaw references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of claims 1-9, 12-46 and 48-53 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 516-0030 if such would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
electronically via EFS-Web, on May 25, 2008.

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